

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 ACDA-07 SSM-03 EUR-12 /094 W
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R 220922Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6433

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJ: PRINCE SULTAN ON GULF SECURITY

REF: KUWAIT 5430

1. THE INTERVIEW WITH SAUDI MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN CITED
PARA 4 OF REFTTEL APPARENTLY WAS AN EXCLUSIVE TO KUWAITI
DAILY AL QABAS. IT WAS REPORTED IN THE SAUDI PRESS NOV 21
IN A SHORT ARTICLE SOURCED TO THE QATAR NEWS AGENCY FROM
KUWAIT.

2. FROM THE EXCERPTS PUBLISHED HERE, SULTAN'S REMARKS ARE
CONSISTENT WITH VIEWS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY STATED PRIVATELY
AND PUBLICLY. SULTAN HAS ALWAYS BRIDLED AT TALK OF A
"POWER VACUUM" IN THE GULF, SEEING IT AS AN ATTEMPT TO
JUSTIFY AN OUTSIDE PRESENCE IN THE REGION OR AN EXPANSION
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OF IRAN'S SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE ARAB SIDE OF

THE PERSIAN GULF.

3. PRINCE SULTAN IS ONE OF THE MAJOR FORMULATORS OF SAUDI GULF POLICY, ESPECIALLY WHERE SECURITY IS INVOLVED. HE IS AN EXPONENT OF SAUDI ARABIA'S ASSUMING A STRONG LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG THE SMALLER ARAB STATES OF THE GULF. HE IS AMONG THE MOST SUSPICIOUS OF THE SAUDI LEADERS WHEN IT COMES TO IRAQ, AND HE SEEMS ALSO TO BE AMONG THE LEAST TRUSTING OF IRANIAN MOTIVES.

4. IN THE PRESENT INSTANCE HE APPEARS TO BE REFLECTING WHAT WILL BE THE SAUDI POSITION AT THE MUSCAT CONFERENCE: THAT TOO MUCH HAS BEEN MADE OF LATE OF THE QUESTION OF GULF SECURITY; THAT THERE IS NO PRESENT THREAT; THAT THE STATES OF THE GULF, RESPECTING EACH OTHERS RIGHTS AND SOVEREIGNTY, CAN LOOK TO THEIR OWN SECURITY; AND THAT IN VIEW OF THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS THERE IS NO NEED FOR FORMAL GULF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

5. WHILE THE SAUDIS WILL GO TO MUSCAT NEGATIVE ON A GULF SECURITY TREATY, THEY WILL BE DOING SO AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF QUITE INTENSE CONSULTATION WITH SAUDI ARABIA'S SMALLER GULF NEIGHBORS ON A RANGE OF BILATERAL ISSUES, PROMINENTLY INCLUDING IMPROVED COOPERATION IN MATTERS OF INTERNAL SECURITY.

HORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL WATERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA07637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760433-0892
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761127/aaaaawkm.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KUWAIT 5430
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRINCE SULTAN ON GULF SECURITY
TAGS: PFOR, SA, (SULTAN, PRINCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006